

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 24, 27, 58, 59, 64, 66, 67, 71, 72, 73, and 75 are pending, with Claims 24, 27, 64, 67, and 72 being independent. Claims 68 through 70 and 74 have been cancelled without prejudice, and their features included into Claims 24, 27, 64, 67, and 72. Claims 24, 27, 64, 66, 67, 71, and 72 have been amended.

Claims 24, 27, 58, 59, 64, and 66 through 75 yet again were variously rejected again under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent Nos. 5,021,892 (Kita, et al.), 4,989,163 (Kawamata, et al.), 5,684,607 (Matsumoto), and 5,900,947 (Kenmochi, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 24, 27, 64, and 67 variously recite, *inter alia*, first and second copying modes with first and second interfaces as claimed, wherein the first copying operation (... in accordance with a read command and a print command transmitted from the external computer in response to a copy key operation of the external computer conducted by the user) is completed without requiring any additional key operation of the external computer conducted by the user other than the copy key operation.

Claim 72 recites, *inter alia*, first and second copying modes with first and second interfaces as claimed, wherein the first copying operation (... in accordance with a read command and a print command transmitted from the external computer in response to a copying designation by the user) is completed without requiring any additional designation by the user other than the copying designation.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that none of Kita, et al., Kawamata, et al., Matsumoto, and Kenmochi, et al., even in the proposed combinations, assuming, *arguendo*, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claims 24, 27, 64, 67, and 72.

The Official Action states that Kita, et al. and Kawamata, et al. does not show such features, and therefore relies at page 6 upon Matsumoto's Fig. 3 and col. 3, lines 49 through 59. This reliance is respectfully traversed. Applicants respectfully submit that said portion of Matsumoto shows, e.g., that the CPU processes commands in accordance with the flowchart (in steps S307 to S311, a command process for each unit is performed on the basis of the determination results of Steps S301 to S305), which provides neither a description nor a suggestion of the above-discussed features including the transmission of ***both*** a read command ***and*** a print command in response to the copy key operation (Claims 24, 27, 64, and 67) or copying designation (Claim 72) as claimed.

It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the above-discussed claimed features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that a full appreciation of these amendments will not require undue time or effort given the Examiner's familiarity with this application. Moreover, this Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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